

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OECD

SUBJECT: HEADS OF DELEGATION DISCUSSION OF OECD

MINISTERIAL DATES AND CHAIARMSHIP

REF: USOECD 3963, USOECD 3962, USOECD 3961

1. DURING HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING FEBRUARY 14, SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP INDICATED THAT WHILE DATES OF MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WERE NOT FINALIZED, DISCUSSION WAS CENTERING AROUND WEEK OF JUNE 8. HE THEN BROACHED SUBJECT ORIGINALLY OFFERED ON PERSONAL BASIS BY AMBASSADOR TOWE AT PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (USOECD 3963) CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL AT FINANCE MINISTER LEVEL TO ADOPT SOLIDARITY FUND AND PERHAPS DISCUSS BROAD ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES FACING WORLD TODAY. SWEDISH DELEGATE ENDORSED WEEK OF JUNE 8 BUT QUESTIONED VALUE OF A SPECIAL MEETING TO ESTABLISH SOLIDARITY FUND IN MARCH. HE POINTED OUT THAT IEA WAS ESTABLISHED SUCCESSFULLY WITHOUT SUCH AN AFFAIR AND IT IS STILL UNKNOWN WHAT COUNTRIES WILL ELECT TO JOIN NEW FACILITY. CANADIAN DELEGATE AGAIN SPOKE IN FAVOR OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MARCH MEETING. JAPANESE DELEGATE INDICATED NO PROBLEM

WITH DATES IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE FOR MINISTERIAL BUT EXPRESSED NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ON MARCH MEETING, IN PART DUE TO BUDGET DISCUSSIONS THEN TO BE UNDERWAY IN DIET. FRANCE HAD NO OBJECTION TO MARCH MEETING ON THE DUAL CONDITIONS THAT IT BE BUILT AROUND VERY SPECIFIC DISCUSSION POINTS AND IN NO CASE REPLACED THE USUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING IN JUNE. HE INDICATED THAT GOF CONSIDERED JUNE MINISTERIAL EXTREMELY USEFUL AND ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO DEALING WITH CURRENT WORLD CONDITIONS. BRITISH DELEGATE WAS NOT IN POSITION TO TAKE A FIRM POSITION ON MARCH MEETING, BUT SAID THAT IN EVENT TRADE PLEDGE WAS CONTEMPLATED FOR CONSIDERATION, HMG WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO DISCUSS TRADE PLEDGE BY THAT EARLY DATE. GERMAN AMBASSADOR TOOK UNENTHUSIASTIC POSITION ON MARCH MEETING BUT INDICATED THAT IN NO EVENT WOULD HIS GOVERNMENT WISH TO INTERFERE WITH CONTINUATION OF JUNE MINISTERIAL.

2. IN SUMMARY, SECRETARY GENERAL INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT NOW PROPOSING A MARCH MEETING; HE HAD RAISED SUBJECT AGAIN BECAUSE OF SOME INTEREST IN IDEA EXPRESSED IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH CERTAIN MEMBERS OF VAN YPERSELE COMMITTEE WHO WERE IN SESSION AT OECD YESTERDAY. HE INDICATED THAT PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGE OF MARCH MEETING WOULD BE TO REINFORCE BUSINESSLIKE AND FINANCIAL REALITY ASPECTS OF SOLIDARITY FUND IN EYES OF PUBLIC. HE INDICATED THAT UP TO THIS POINT POLITICAL FACETS OF FACILITY HAD BEEN SO PROMINENT THAT EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF FUND AT THIS TIME MIGHT BE USEFUL IN ORDER FOR IT TO BE TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY AS A SOUND FINANCIAL INITIATIVE. HIS DECISION TO PROCEED FURTHER WITH THIS MATTER WAS LEFT OPEN, BUT RECEPTION GIVEN TO CONCEPT OF MARCH MEETING WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC. THERE WAS STRONG SUPPORT, HOWEVER, FOR CONTINUATION OF JUNE CONFERENCE, REGARDED AS EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, WITH OR WITHOUT A SPRING MEETING.

3. DURING MEETING, SECRETARY GENERAL ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT UNITED KINGDOM HAD AGREED TO CHAIR ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL DURING 1975, SUB-
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JECT TO CONCURRENCE OF MEMBER STATES. THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPOINTMENT, ALTHOUGH DELEGATE FROM JAPAN WAS FORCED TO RESERVE JUDGMENT DUE TO LACK OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM TOKYO. DUE TO THE JAPANESE RESERVATION, FORMAL APPROVAL OF THIS ACTION WAS POSTPONED UNTIL A COUNCIL MEETING TO BE CALLED ESPECIALLY FOR THAT PURPOSE NEXT TUESDAY. THE DELEGATE FROM GREECE POINTED OUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER CHAIRED A

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE SINCE THE CREATION OF OEEC AND
INDICATED THAT HE WAS CALLING COUNCIL'S ATTENTION TO GOG'S
DESIRE TO DO SO IN 1976. DELEGATE FROM UK INDICATED
HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT GREEK CANDIDACY AT THAT
TIME.

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